

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 18, as follows:

Upon stranding the group of the coil line elements, the flexible linear tube generally generates rolls or swells transmitting in the lengthwise direction due to a contractile stress produced between the neighboring coil line elements tightly arranged and due to a tensile and shearing stress appeared between the coil line elements. In contrast to the above situation, the hollow wire coil configuration according to the invention is stranded under the torsion-resistant load, and heat treated to remove the residual stress. This obviates a chance to occur the detrimental roll or swell phenomenon produced due to the complicated stresses combined, thus providing the wire-stranded hollow configuration with a good straightness. This also achieves a good rotation-following capability in which the leading distal end staunchly follows the rotational manipulation of the hand access portion. The related art wire-stranded hollow coil body disclosed by the first and second references intermittently generates "strand stuck portions", a part of which is rapidly released with an excessive times of turning operation so as to roll in the stick slip manner. This produces a zigzag curve represented by broken lines in Table 1 FIG. 31 which indicates that the rotational manipulation of the hand access portion at an angle ( $\theta 2$ ) results in twisting the leading distal end by an angle ( $\theta 1$ ). On the contrary, the wire-stranded hollow coil body according to the invention is stranded under the torsion-resistant load to eliminate the unfavorable "strand stuck portions" so as to present the high rotation-following capability and high straightness as shown by a linear relationship represented by the solid line in Table 1 FIG. 31.

Page 11, please remove "Table 1." text and graph.

Page 14, after line 17, please add the following paragraph:

Fig. 31 is a chart illustrating rotational manipulation and twisting characteristics of the related art and the present invention.